



Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 19 as follows:

At this time, the mesh tube 38 is subjected to the force causing the metal wires to be moved in the longitudinal direction (the direction wherein the metal wires cross with a small angle). That is to say, the mesh tube 38 reduces the diameter of the flexible tube 15, as well as generating the force F1, as shown in Figure 4, causing extension of the entire flexible tube in the longitudinal direction thereof.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 18 as follows:

The endoscope 2 includes a flexible universal ~~cord~~ cord 9 extending from the side of the operating portion 8. The universal ~~cord~~ cord 9 includes a connector 10 on the end of the universal ~~cord~~ cord 9, which can be detachably connected to the light source device 3. Furthermore, the connector 10 includes an electric connector 11 on the side thereof. The electric connector 11 is connected to the signal cable 4 which can be connected to the video processor 5.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 1 as follows:

Furthermore, an inserting-portion bending restriction member 12, an operating-portion bending restriction member 13, and a connector-portion bending restriction member 14, are provided to the connection portion between the inserting portion 7 and the operating portion 8, the connection portion between the operating portion 8 and the universal ~~cord~~ cord 9, and the connection portion between the universal ~~cord~~ cord 9 and the connector 10, respectively, for restricting severe bending of these connection portions.